

COURSE TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Trainer:

Juliette Merrett is a senior Occupational Therapist specialising in the field of mental health

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to provide an overview of autistic spectrum disorders in both children and adults, including the incidence of these disorders and methods of diagnosis. Professional roles in the diagnosis and management of autistic spectrum disorders are outlined.

The course goes on to consider the assessment of need and care planning, with a specific focus on the role of the social care professional in multi-disciplinary work in this field.

Duration of course:

Whole day (six hours with breaks)

Numbers:

Between 12 and 20 participants.

There need to be enough participants for at least three small sub-groups to facilitate exercises with case material.

Target Audience:

Health and social care professionals practising in the areas of Children's Services, Learning Disability Services, CAMHS and Adult Mental Health.

Teaching Method:

Comprehensive Power Point presentation, combined with interactive work (large and small group). The afternoon sessions are based around exercises using case material, looking at needs assessment and professional roles. Participants will receive a booklet of material from the course itself, together with samples of diagnostic material and articles related to the areas covered in the seminar. Pointers towards further study are made available.

Course Synopsis:

- Testing established ideas and myths about autism
- Nature and features of autism
- The 'triad of impairment'
- The autistic spectrum
- Diagnostic guidelines and practice
- Professional roles in diagnosis, treatment and management
- 'High Functioning' Autism and Asperger's Syndrome
- Autism and adult mental health
- Needs assessment and care planning
- Inter-disciplinary issues
- Carers' perspective